

United in Faith News

MAY - 2016

Why are we here? ~

We are to be God's hands, feet and voice in the world.

SUMMER WORSHIP TIME

begins on

May 29

with one combined service every Sunday at

9:30 AM

ALL ARE WELCOME!

At
United in Faith,
The Guiding
Principles are:

Jesus is
Lord and
Savior

Reflect
God's love

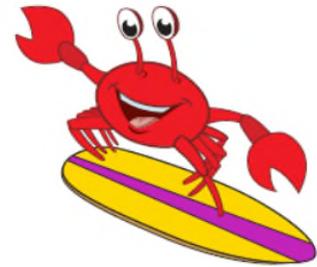
Pray and
Listen for God's
guidance

Continue to
strengthen
faith

Include All
In God's
work

Meet people
where they
are

SURF SHACK



**Vacation Bible School
at United in Faith**

**This years VBS will be held August 15-19.
We hope to see a lot of children this year
and we need lot of helpers. Invite your
neighbors' and friends' kids to sign up too**

More about this years VBS next Month.

From the desk of . . .

Pastor Carla -

Confirmation Is Coming Soon!

On Sunday, May 15th at the 8:30am service, three young people will affirm their faith at United in Faith in a tradition known as Confirmation. According to the ELCA's Confirmation Ministry Task Force Report (1993), "Confirmation ministry is a pastoral and education ministry of the church that helps the baptized through Word and Sacrament to identify more deeply with the Christian community and participate more fully in its mission."

Confirmation programs have varied through the years. Some have been focused on memorization and rote recitation of church teachings (especially Luther's Small Catechism). Some have required elaborate proof to the congregation of the young person's religious knowledge or beliefs. I've heard of young people being interrogated in front of the congregation or being denied the rite of confirmation because they didn't answer correctly.

Today, most Lutheran confirmation classes offer a combination of Bible studies and of studying the Catechism. United in Faith's confirmation class also included a weekend youth retreat at Lutherdale in February 2016 (focused on the Apostles Creed). All three of our confirmands have gone above and beyond in their service to the church – whether acolyting, playing drums, or volunteering in other ways around the church. Although they can be goofy teen boys, they are also eager to give their input on topics of biblical or faith-oriented discussion.

Sometimes people have treated Confirmation like a graduation from church. Because we often say that youth are "full adult members of the church" after their confirmation, parents sometimes let youth make their own decisions about religious belief and church attendance. And because confirmation usually occurs around the time of their 8th grade graduation, there is sometimes a subjective view of being "done."

Confirmation is really a time for young people to claim the Christian faith for themselves. This is the time where they announce to everyone that this faith isn't just their parents' or grandparents' faith, but that they too believe and are committed to God's purposes. They may live out their faith in a different way than their parents or older members of the church do, but Confirmation gives them a chance to claim this faith as their own and to spend some extra time in intentional study and religious learning.

As these three young men profess this Christian faith as their own, please keep them in prayer. Achieving one's confirmation is not the end of their faith journey, and the relationships that they make with adults at United in Faith are incredibly valuable as they grow in faith.

As a pastor, I value the relationships and faith skills that are built through the confirmation program, moreso than the content that is infused into their brains.

Continued on page 3

I prefer that they learn a variety of ways to find something in the Bible rather than just memorizing (and then forgetting) a lot of biblical teachings. I prefer that they learn how to think critically and theologically about truths that they might hear rather than memorizing lots of doctrine and dogma. I prefer that they get to know some adult church members so that they have someone to talk to (in addition to their families) when the going gets tough rather than proving to those adults that they have memorized the Small Catechism word for word.

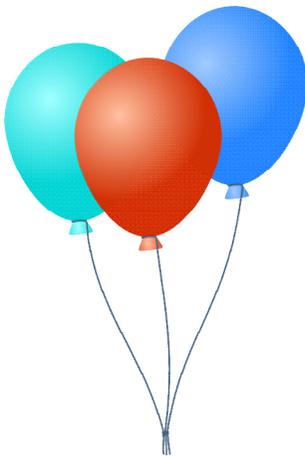
Our Confirmation program is just one step in the Christian education of our youth at United in Faith. We hope that our youth have participated in previous years at Sunday school, First Communion classes, Vacation Bible School, and even Bible studies for all ages. I don't want to use confirmation classes as an attempt to make up for religious learning that has been absent throughout their lives. We can learn much from one another through our Confirmation Program.

God bless you Evan, Owen, & Zac! And thanks to Kim Childress for co-teaching confirmation classes with me this year (and solo teaching all of last year)!

-Pastor Carla



HAPPY BIRTHDAY & ANNIVERSARY!!!



- | | |
|---------------|--|
| MAY 1 | DIANE DOYLE |
| MAY 3 | DAVE & GRETCHEN QUILLIN'S ANNIVERSARY |
| MAY 3 | PEG SULLIVAN |
| MAY 4 | HAROLD & DIAN HOYEM'S ANNIVERSARY |
| MAY 9 | MARY JANE BROWN |
| MAY 11 | RICH & GAYLE GUZIK'S ANNIVERSARY |
| MAY 12 | SHIRLEY MELANDER |
| MAY 15 | RONALD DENZ |
| MAY 17 | GEORGE SCHULTZ |
| MAY 17 | GEORGE & PAM SCHULTZ'S ANNIVERSARY |
| MAY 22 | DORIS JACOBSON |
| MAY 24 | LOUISE SWANSON |
| MAY 30 | MARTY & JANEEN DEVINE'S ANNIVERSARY |
| MAY 30 | CARLA & DARRYL POWELL'S ANNIVERSARY |

A devotion by Pamela Marino

What does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God. - Micah 6:8

The merry month of May. Maypoles, flowers and spring. I remember going to visit my grandmother in Iowa for spring break and being there for May Day - May 1st. Little May baskets of spring flowers from my aunt's country garden were left on the doorstep early in the morning. I loved this country tradition which made my visit so special.

Remember the 'Lusty Month of May' scene from Camelot - a delightful romp in the woods? 'Tra la! It's May! The lusty month of May! That lovely month when ev'ryone goes Blissfully astray. Tra la! It's here! Oh la la!

Perhaps 'mayday mayday mayday' - the universal distress call - comes to mind. This really isn't related to the month of May but rather has origins from the French word m'aider which means 'help me'.

Did you know May 1st or May Day is also a universal labor day to honor workers rights, similar to our September Labor Day? May 1st, 1886 was chosen for a peaceful worldwide rally in favor of an eight hour workday. Chicago was the center of a national movement as workers, unionists, reformers and unfortunately some anarchists gathered, leading to the deadly Haymarket Square riots. The commemoration of the tragedy continues in speeches throughout the world. Demonstrations for workers rights also continue to this day.

How do we as Christians advocate for justice? Remember, our call is to also 'love kindness and 'walk humbly with' our God. I have a bookmark (thanks to the Constantinos) that says 'prayer should be our first resource, not our last resort.' We can all start there. While we may or may not desire to be on the picket lines we do have the mighty pen available to us. It doesn't take many letters for our representatives to take notice of an issue. During these political campaigns we know our greatest tool is our privilege to vote. We are all capable of small everyday efforts. Small efforts add up to big impacts. Where can you make a difference?

Lord, along with our celebrations of the season of renewal, help us to see where our advocacy is needed and guide us in our work to bring 'your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.'

Unbinding the Gospel Book Study coming this summer

During the months of June and July 2016, after our combined 9:30am services, Pastor Carla will lead a book study on Unbinding the Gospel by Martha Grace Reese (no class on July 3). This book teaches about evangelism from a personal and prayer-based approach. This is not about knocking on doors or forcing people to become Christian! This is about opening ourselves up to the Holy Spirit as God works in our lives.

You can buy Unbinding the Gospel (2nd edition) in many locations online (smile.amazon.com, cokesbury.com, chalicepress.com) new for \$15-18 (or used for under \$10). The ISBN # is 9780827238084 (be sure you buy the 2nd edition of the Unbinding the Gospel book – with a red ribbon on the cover – there are a wide variety of similar books in the series). You can also order it from Chalice Press directly by calling [1-800-366-3383](tel:1-800-366-3383).

Pastor Carla would like to offer a second group of this study on a different day as well (also during June & July) – is there another time that works for you? Weekday evening or weekday morning? Saturday morning? Please communicate your preference to Pastor Carla.

If you have to miss some classes due to summer travel, please come to as many sessions as possible.

News from Gay and Straight Together . . .

"I believe God is calling us into this conversation now. It's an opportunity to get to understand another part of God's never-ending diversity and another way to live into our baptismal calling to love all of God's children." Bishop Gene Robinson, first gay Episcopal priest in a committed relationship to be elected Bishop.

The Gay and Straight Together Ministry of United in Faith Lutheran Church, 6525 W. Irving Park Rd., Chicago, invites all to be a part of this conversation by attending "Transgender: The Forgotten People." This presentation will take place on Sunday, May 15, from 12:30 to 3 pm. A light lunch will be served while viewing the documentary "Voices of Witness, Out of the Box." This will be followed by Br. Michael Oboza, a transgender person himself, sharing his journey of transition. Questions and answers from the audience will follow. This will be a safe environment for discussing real life stories of the struggles and triumphs of many of God's children, and not the sensationalized versions popular in today's media.

"Voices of Witness, Out of the Box" is a groundbreaking documentary giving voice to the witness of transgender people of faith courageously sharing their stories of hope, healing and wholeness. Gender identity and gender expression are issues that can easily be misunderstood and cannot be wrapped up in a neat little box. The goal of "Out of the Box" is to answer some of the most frequently asked questions.

Br. Michael C. Oboza is a transgender person who is a retired Professed monastic of the Eastern rite from the Orthodox Catholic Church of America and a retired Michael Page awarded LGBT activist from The Marin Foundation after over 20 years of activism.

The presentation is free. A free will offering will be accepted. Free parking in back of the church. Please RSVP to Carolyn Doughty at car072848@att.net by May 11.

MOTHER'S DAY 2016



*In honor of
Mother's Day
this month, we
present these
poems from
Sue Wilfong
along with our
thanks to all
those who
nurture and care
for our sons and
daughters.*

A Son

by: Susan J Wilfong

There's a certain joy,
That can't be out done.
When the child in your life,
Happens to be a son.

They gurgle and coo,
And are quite amazing.
Parents are proud,
Of the boy they are raising.

As he grows through the years,
And graduates from school.
He stands up with pride,
For he's nobodies fool.

He honors his family,
Each and every day.
He helps when he can,
Without a delay.

The time may come,
When he has a child of his own.
He'll experience the joy,
That only parents have known.

A Daughter

by: Susan J Wilfong

Daughters are special,
In so many ways.
Their smile can brighten,
The gloomiest of days.
As you have grown,
And matured through the years,
We've shared some laughs,
And we've shared some tears.

I love you now,
And always will.
No matter what happens,
I'll love you still.

I am your mother,
This will never end.
I hope, you will also,
Consider me a friend.

I Love You

SERVING IN WORSHIP: MAY 2016

	Traditional 8:30 Asst. Min.	Traditional 8:30 Communion Assistants	Traditional 8:30 Ushers	Praise & Worship 10:30 Asst. Min.	Praise & Worship 10:30 Communion Assistants	Praise & Worship 10:30 Ushers
May 1	Barbara Patrick	Dawn Kuswik and Dian Hoyem	Jeff Jewell and Dennis Vogel	Laurel Kenneally	Laurel Kenneally	
May 8	Mary Haas	Mary Haas and Dawn Kuswik	Jeff Jewell	Jane Schira	Judi Schira	
May 15	Pete Herberg	Barbara Patrick and Kim Childress		Gretchen Quillin		Bonnie Maginnis
May 22	Lys Shradeja	Lys Shradeja	Harold Hoyem and Dennis Vogel	Gretchen Quillin	Nancy Ciecko	
9:30 AM May 29	UIF Youth and Children Kim Childress	UIF Youth and Children Owen Devine Evan Powell	UIF Youth and Children Daniel Cecala Nathan Dombroski	X	X	X

JUSTICE MINISTRY

Loss of college grants and scholarships, closing of daycare centers, cuts and closures of health care services, cuts for senior help, cuts to Meals on Wheels, cuts and closures for alcohol and drug rehab, and loss of jobs. This is just a short list of things that have been affected by the Illinois state budget impasse. The Justice Ministry is holding an offering of letters between services on May 1. Depending on when you are reading this, please plan to be a part of this. The offering of letters will be directed to Governor Rauner and Illinois state representatives telling them they need to work together to pass an Illinois state budget. We will have copies of letters available and a list of representatives of the different districts so you can send them to your own representatives. If you are not able to attend this offering of letters, or are reading this after the date, please log onto LutheranAdvocacy.org where a link is provided so you can email Governor Rauner and your representatives directly. Many families have already suffered and we need to show that we will not stand for this any longer. The people of Illinois need your advocacy.



Boy Scout Troop 166 Monthly Report

Hello again from Troop 166.

Had some fun this month!

As I mentioned last month, we took an afternoon to visit the Galloping Ghost video arcade. To quote Quasimodo... "The bells! The BELLS!" I have never before seen so many token gobblers in one place in my life! Well, the Scouts enjoyed it. Sadly, there were only three old-fashioned pinball machines for the adult leaders to monopolize, but even the Pinball Wizard himself found it challenging to play all three at once! Oh, and the old Asteroids (that's ASTEROIDS) master hasn't lost his touch.

Our overnighter to Blackwell Woods was extraordinary! In my years in Scouting, I have been on overnights with snow. I have been on overnights with wind. I have been on overnights with cold. But freezing temperatures, grouple (dippin dots from the sky) and steady winds of 30 MPH with gusts up to 55, and THUNDERSNOW, NEVER! These Scouts are TOUGH! Ever play softball 500 in a blizzard? We did.

After that, the bowling we did last Saturday was definitely tame, although the party of four-year-olds in the next lane did raise the challenge level somewhat. Also, the sight of the mom (not ours) crawling halfway down their alley to retrieve... something, was somewhat entertaining. I don't think she anticipated the wax on the lane J.

Next month's program will be a little slower, as we prep ourselves for our two weeks in the wilds of Michigan at Owasippe Scout Reservation. We'll be fixing up that old trailer, repairing and replacing old camping gear, and doing a little swimming to get ready for the Swim Checks up at camp. These Scouts are proud of their status as Swimmers, and don't want to risk having to test more than once.

Until next month, enjoy the weather, and be well.

Yours in Scouting,
Eric Friedl
Scoutmaster, Troop 166

MAY COFFEE HOUR HOSTESSES

May	1	Doris Hemple
May	8	Gretchen Quillin
May	15	Barbara Patrick
May	22	The Schira Family
May	29	Nancy Ciecko

Thanks to everyone who has served the first four months of this year.

You are great.

Lois & Annette

Welcome

Hospitality Corner
Greeters for May 2016

	8:30 AM	10:30 AM
May 1	Ardelle Wray	Carolyn Doughty
May 8	Terrie Miller	Bonnie Maginnis
May 15	Marion Hansen	Mickey Bligh
May 22	Doris Hemple	Carolyn Doughty

9:30 Service
May 29 Children and Youth

Thanks for all your smiling faces. -Lois & Annette

New Life for Old Bags

As of March 30, 2016 we are at:
2,842 mats
1,989,400 Approximately repurposed bags
227,360 Approximately hours of volunteer work
In 6 years and 1 month



Senior Club of UIF

Well, there is not much new here. We only have 7 members left and Muriel & Fred are still under the weather. We haven't seen Dorothy for the first three months and are hoping to see her in April, but one never knows the way this weather has been.

Doris Jacobson's birthday is coming up on the 22nd of May. She will be 90 and that is a special day for her. We wish her the best and to hang in there. We hope she has a super day.

Get well wishes go out to Barbara Hubka, Joe Beckie, Helen Glowacz, Fred & Muriel Clauson, and Lil Bjork. We wish you are well. Pray you are feeling better.

Our next outing will be on Wed. May 18th. You ask where are you going? To Baker Square. of course, to get free pie. We will meet there at 11:30 am. Hope to see our members out. Spring is on it's way (I think). See you there.'

Love, Annette

Girl Scouting In and Around United in Faith



First of all, we were saddened by the death of Robin's 17 year old nephew on April 4th here at Harlem & Montrose early in the afternoon. Our Prayers go out to her and the family.

Busy, busy, busy. This time sure doesn't stand still. We need to extend our meetings one extra week in order to get all our stuff done.

So we will be ending on May 17th this year. Need to do some catch up work, get badges finished and not let them hang over until next year. Hopefully, we will have the cookie awards by then and that way we can get them to the girls before Sept. rolls around and that will be here before we know it.

We took 50 girls and adults to see Marty Devine in Music Man on the 3rd of April. What a great play. I don't know if everyone enjoyed it as much and I did, but It was super. I want to be one of the ladies that does the "Grecian Urn".

I think that all our outside events are done until October, when we start with our Juliette Low rally. We have our agenda all set for next year. The leaders will all go out in May for their get together dinner. Then we are done until Sept. the day after Labor Day.

Thank you for all your help with collecting health supplies, buying cookies, candy, nuts, magazines and what ever. You have been great.

Daisy, Brownie, Junior, Cadette, Senior and Ambassadors.....All the leaders too.

DON'T FORGET...



Beginning MAY 29 there will be only one worship service at 9:30 am for the summer. ALL ARE WELCOME!

COMING SUNDAY, JUNE 5, 2016!!!

The annual **Offering of Letters**, conducted by **Bread for the World (B4F)** will once again take place here at United in Faith. This year's focus is women's and children's nutrition. This is a global issue, not a problem in this country only.

Ending hunger means more than just providing enough food and calories for everyone. Side by side with the need for sufficient food to live an active life is the need for the *right* foods — for good nutrition. A diet drawing from all food groups that is rich with vitamins and minerals is crucial for the health, growth, and strength of both bodies and minds. Focusing on women and young children is important because these groups are the most vulnerable to hunger and malnutrition. Nearly half of the world's smallholder farmers are women, with higher rates in developing countries.

This is where we come in. We need to tell Congress to increase funding for the nutrition and health of mothers, infants, and children.

There will be more information about our Offering of Letters in our Sunday bulletins as we get closer to the date.

WORSHIP and MUSIC NEWS



Alleluia! Jesus is risen! He is risen indeed! Yes, Easter Sunday has passed, but the Easter season continues until Pentecost, which is on May 15, 2016. Pentecost Sunday is also confirmation Sunday which will be celebrated at the 8:30 traditional service. Congratulations to the confirmands on their special day! May 29th, which is the fifth Sunday, will be Children and Youth Sunday at 9:30. Our summer schedule will continue with one combined worship service at 9:30 until September. This summer both worship planning teams will once again work together to plan blended services. This plan seemed to be well received last summer. Each Sunday there will be one keyboard player, a guitar player, a bass player, a drummer (as available and deemed appropriate for given songs), and the usual vocalists. Our keyboard players have planned and shared which Sundays each one will play. This will help a great deal with choosing songs that highlight each person's

strengths, as well as fitting the liturgical theme for each Sunday. As in previous summers, we hope the 9:30 time will encourage attendance every Sunday by all people who are not on vacation. Many thanks to Dawn Kuswik for taking over the coordination of the Sunday worship volunteers. It was decided by the church council and ministry directors a while ago to spread out individual responsibilities among more people so that each person volunteering in a given ministry has less on their plate. Dawn stepping up to coordinate volunteers has made this possible and it is greatly appreciated.

If you normally volunteer in worship please use the sign-up sheet to either choose your preferred date, or write at the bottom when you aren't available. If you would like to try something new, please sign up for any date you are available. If you are scheduled for a date when you are unable to serve, please contact Dawn Kuswik, the office manager, or someone who normally serves to trade dates and let the office manager know.

If you have any constructive feedback regarding worship and music; please feel free to speak to Jane Schira, Dave Quillan, Lois Cornils, or any of the other the worship planners. The traditional worship planners also include Denise Boyer, Janeen Devine, Katie Jewell, and Elisabeth Wittman; and Richard Trost works with Dave and Jane on praise and worship planning. Many thanks to our planners who all volunteer their time. Any feedback concerning the slide presentations may be addressed to Jane Schira. If you use e-mail, Jane may be reached at janie.yellin@hotmail.com.

Yours in Christ,
Jane Schira

A decorative border of musical notes, including treble clefs and various note values, frames the 'BELL CHOIR NEWS' section.

BELL CHOIR NEWS

Ding dong, ding dong. No, it is not the doorbell. It is the sound of the bell choir. We would like to have the bell choir play a few times during the summer again this year. We need some volunteers. It is okay if you have never played before or can't read music. We have ways. Please consider signing up on the signup sheet in the fellowship hall. The plan is to have two rehearsals a month and then play once a month. The commitment would only be for the summer. The exact dates of the rehearsals and Sunday bell ringing will be coming soon. If you have any questions please contact Denise Boyer at [773-777-7568](tel:773-777-7568) or boyer1946@comcast.net.

MAY 2016

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	8:30 AM Traditional Worship Service 9:30 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Praise Worship Service	2 9:00 AM Food Pantry 9:00 AM Golden Diners 9:30 AM Al Anon 7:00 PM Worship and Music	3 <i>Bulletin Announcements Due for Upcoming Sunday</i> 9:00 AM Golden Diners 6:45 PM Girl Scouts 7:15 PM Tuesday Night Bible Study	4 7:30 PM Boy Scouts	5 9:00 AM Food Pantry 9:00 AM Golden Diners 9:30 AM Property Committee 6:00 PM Brownies 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal	6 9:00 AM Golden Diners 6:30 PM AA 7:00 PM Girl Scout Leaders	7 9:30 AM Al-Anon 10:00 AM NLOB 4:00 PM Survivors of Incest Anonymous
8	8:30 AM Traditional Worship Service 9:30 AM Sunday School 9:30 AM Mother's Day Brunch 10:30 AM Praise Worship Service	9 9:00 AM Food Pantry 9:00 AM Golden Diners 9:30 AM Al Anon	10 <i>Bulletin Announcements Due for Upcoming Sunday</i> 9:00 AM Golden Diners 6:45 PM Girl Scouts 7:15 PM Tuesday Night Bible Study	11 <i>Articles for the June Newsletter Due</i> 7:30 PM Boy Scouts	12 9:00 AM Food Pantry 9:00 AM Golden Diners 6:00 PM Brownies 7:00 PM Community Prayer	13 9:00 AM Golden Diners 6:30 PM AA	14 9:30 AM Al-Anon 4:00 PM Survivors of Incest Anonymous
15	PENTECOST and CONFIRMATION SUNDAY 8:30 AM Traditional Worship Service 8:30 AM Confirmation 9:30 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Praise Worship Service 12:30 PM Transgender 101	16 9:00 AM Food Pantry 9:00 AM Golden Diners 9:30 AM Al Anon 7:00 PM Justice Ministry	17 <i>Bulletin Announcements Due for Upcoming Sunday</i> 9:00 AM Golden Diners 6:45 PM Girl Scout Awards Event 7:00 PM Church Council 7:15 PM Tuesday Night Bible Study	18 11:00 AM Senior Club 7:30 PM Boy Scouts	19 9:00 AM Food Pantry 9:00 AM Golden Diners	20 9:00 AM Golden Diners 6:30 PM AA	21 9:30 AM Al-Anon 4:00 PM Survivors of Incest Anonymous
22	8:30 AM Traditional Worship Service 9:30 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Praise Worship Service	23 9:00 AM Food Pantry 9:00 AM Golden Diners 9:30 AM Al Anon	24 <i>Bulletin Announcements Due for Upcoming Sunday</i> 9:00 AM Golden Diners 6:30 PM Boy Scout Round Table 7:15 PM Tuesday Night Bible Study	25 7:30 PM Boy Scouts	26 9:00 AM Golden Diners	27 9:00 AM Golden Diners 6:30 PM AA	28 9:30 AM Al-Anon 4:00 PM Survivors of Incest Anonymous
29	CHILDREN and YOUTH SUNDAY 9:30 AM Traditional Worship Service 9:30 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Forum	30 9:00 AM Food Pantry 9:00 AM Golden Diners 9:30 AM Al Anon	31 <i>Bulletin Announcements Due for Upcoming Sunday</i> 9:00 AM Golden Diners 7:15 PM Tuesday Night Bible Study				

United in Faith Lutheran Church

A Reconciling In Christ Congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

***We Are To Be God's
Hands, Feet and Voice in the World***

+

**Jesus is Lord and Savior
Reflect God's Love
Pray and listen for God's guidance
Continue to strengthen faith
Include all in God's work
Meet people where they are**

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